

What is claimed is:

1. A process for removing nitrocresols from wastewater of mononitrotoluene preparation, which comprises acidifying the alkaline wastewater of mononitrotoluene preparation with acids to a pH of at most 3 and treating the nitrocresols with an extractant.
2. The process according to claim 1, wherein acids having a pK_a value of at most 2 are used.
3. The process according to claim 1 or 2, wherein mineral acids are used.
4. The process according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the nitrocresols are extracted with toluene, o-, m-, p-nitrotoluene or mixtures thereof.
5. The process according to any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the volume ratio of the wastewater to be extracted to the extractant is from 1:1 to 50:1.
6. The use of the nitrocresol-containing extracts as a feedstock in the preparation of dinitrotoluene.
7. A process for preparing dinitrotoluene, which comprises using nitrocresol-containing extracts obtainable according to any of claims 1 to 5 as a feedstock.
8. The process according to claim 7, wherein the nitrocresol-containing extracts are added as a substream to the process stage of mononitration of toluene.
9. The process according to claim 7, wherein the nitrocresol-containing extracts are added as a substream to the process stage of dinitration.
10. The process according to any of claims 7 to 9, wherein the amount of nitrocresols added by the addition of the extracts is 0.01 and 1% by weight based on the amount of dinitrotoluene obtained.